(b) if so, when was this deal en-, tered into by Department of Telecom-munication;

(c) whether any vigilance probe by vigilance officials was conducted into this deal;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) The number of officials suspended and dismissed after the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No_ Sir. As the Government had not concluded any deal with South Korean firm.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (a) Yes, Sir. Vigilance probe is in progress.

(e) One official has been suspended.

Direction of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the ARMS Expenditure

2907. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the action is being taken on the latest report of the Comptroller ana Auditor General of India to the effect that a sum of Rs. 2.35 Crore was spent by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. New Delhi on itema not included in the Sixth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): The All India Institute of Medical Sciences have informed that it is not a fact that an amount of Rs 2.35 Crore was spent on items not included in the Sixth Five Year Plan. Though these works were not mentioned in the initial draft Plan proposals submitted by the Institute at the commencement of the Sixh Five Year Plan, details thereof were reflected in the subsequent annual plan proposals of the Institute and the Plan allocation made by the Government were utilised accordingly.

Operatioa Black Board in Rural Areas

2908. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT *be* pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme of Operation Black Board has been implemented;

(b) if so, what is the number of schools in rural areas which have so far been provided with Black Boards; and

(c) whether the target announced has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The scheme for implementing the Operation Blackboard envisaged in the National Policy on Education-1986 has been finalised and circulated to States/UTs on 26th May 1987. It is proposed to implement the scheme in a phased manner by taking up 20 per cent of blocks/municipal areas in 1987-88. 30 per cent in 1988-89 and 50 per cent in 1989-90. For the programme to be implemented in 1987-88, proposals are awaited from States UTs. It is understood that in States/ UTs, a survey is being conducted to assess availability /deficiency of facilities in the schools and project reports are being prepared for sanction under the scheme. Assistance would he provided to the States/UTs when propo-

sals are received. The target set for 1987-88 is expected to be met by the end of the year.

Speed Post Service in the Country

2909. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities, presently linked by speed post within the country;

(b) the names of the cities linked by speed post within the country to cities /countries abroad; and

(c) which are the countries abroad and cities inside are going to be linked by Speed Post in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV); (a) Cities presently linked by speed post within the country are: Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras; Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Pune, Vadadara Indore, Guwahati, Cochin, Agartala and Silehar. Five extension counters only for booking speed post items have been provided at Faridabad, Ghaziabad Thane, Surat and Hosur.

(b) All the cities referred to at (a) above are also on the International speed post network.

(c) The establishment of Speed Post links with more countries and the extension of the speed post network to more cities in India is a continuous process. Proposals for the establishment of new links are received from other postal administrations and each case is examined with reference to the terms and conditions offered traffic potential, etc. and appropriate oeei— sions are taken accordingly. New centres within the country are established depending upon the availability of suitable air/train outlets and the traffic potential.

Himsagar Express

2910. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Railways cancelled Himsagar Express during the last three years; yearwise figures;

(b) what are the reasons for frequent cancellation of this longest distance Superfast Express;

(c) whether it is a fact that only old and very depleted and worn out coaches fit only for Railway museum are attached to this Superfast Express;

(d) the number of coaches attached to this train as on date; and

(e) what is the year of manufactur ing of each coach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA); (a) 1984-85: Once in either direction.

1985-86: Once in either direction.
1986-87: Nil.

(b) The train was cancelled only twice during the last three years, once due to civil disturbances and due to cyclone on the other occassion which was unavoidable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The train is scheduled to run with 15 coaches.

(e) A statement is enclosed.